

Did you know?

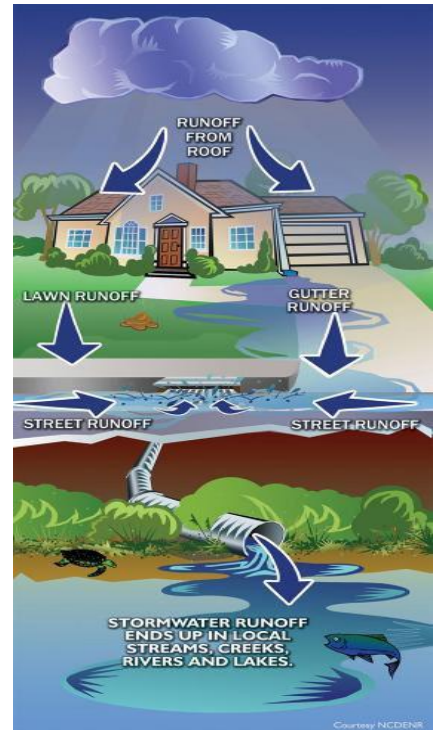
Stormwater runoff is water from rain or melting snow that “runs off” across the land instead of seeping into the ground. This often flows into the nearest body of water without being treated in any way.

Stormwater cannot be absorbed by impervious surfaces such as roads, roofs, parking lots and driveways. These surfaces generate significantly more stormwater than fields or forests – approximately 27,000 gallons more for every acre of impervious surface! In fact, over 600 gallons of water runs off a 1000 square foot roof during a one inch rainstorm.

This high volume of fast-moving water picks up more dirt, oil, grass, pet waste, chemicals, and other pollutants, which are then carried to our natural waterbodies and into our drinking water sources. Polluted stormwater runoff is the number one cause of water pollution in North Carolina. It is much more expensive to clean up polluted water for drinking than it is to use clean water.

Furthermore, too much sediment and fertilizers cover up fish habitats and can cause algae blooms which use up the oxygen the fish need to survive.

The City of Conover has been issued a NPDES permit by the state of North Carolina that requires the City to implement six defined programs all with the goal of protecting our surface waters.



How can you help?

Home Maintenance

- Use non-toxic or low toxin cleaners.
- Properly store all chemicals.
- Never dump chemicals or cleaners into a storm drain.
- Keep trash cans closed to prevent animals from scattering trash.
- Sweep sidewalks, driveways and gutters instead of spraying them with a hose.
- Make sure your septic systems are properly maintained.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Perform regular and responsible maintenance on your vehicle
- Clean any spilled fluids with rags or kitty litter and dispose at a hazardous waste collection site.
- Store hazardous materials properly in the original, closed container.

Yard Maintenance

- Plant more native trees and shrubs!
- Don't rake leaves or grass into the street, gutter or storm drain.
- Don't mow your grass too short.
- Use organic or non-toxic fertilizers and pesticides.
- Leave grass clippings on the lawn or compost them.
- When you walk your dog, be sure to pick up after him.

Information for Businesses

- Make sure that the storm drains in your parking lot are not clogged.
- Collect and store trash.
- Practice responsible yard maintenance techniques.
- Pour washwater into a janitorial or mop sink – never into the street or gutter.
- Recycle grease and oil – don't pour it into sinks or floor drains.
- Keep your vehicles in good repair.
- Report chemical spills immediately to the proper authorities
- Keep dumpster area clean and the lid closed – don't fill it with liquid waste or hose it out.
- Minimize waste by using reusable or recycled and recyclable containers.

Code Enforcement



REMOVING MOSQUITO HABITATS

During the spring and summer mosquitos can put a damper on outdoor activities. One of the violations of the City of Conover Ordinance is providing a place for these pesky insects to breed. Part of my task list during this time of year is to reduce the places mosquitos multiply by finding and eliminating manmade mosquito habitats.

Mosquitos have four stages of life and the first three are usually spent in stagnant shallow water. This stagnant shallow water is what we can reduce by removing items in our yard or neighborhood that can collect water. These items are typically buckets or similar containers but can also be plastic sheeting or tarps, children's toys, wrecked vehicles with pockets for water and any other item that water can collect on or in. The water doesn't have to be deep at all, merely a quarter inch will work and in some cases mosquitos will lay eggs in damp soil and grass clippings.

The three stages of life before a mosquito can bite us can last from 5 to 14 days. After these three stages they become adults. Their objective is to feed and make more mosquitos. Getting rid of stagnant water after a rain should be done as quickly as possible to avoid breeding. Mosquitos mainly feed on nectar and plant juices but when the opportunity is there, the females have the ability to penetrate our skin and feast on our blood. This is the part we do not want and by reducing the habitat for the first 3 stages of life, we can reduce the number of blood hungry mosquitos.

In the United States the death rate related to mosquito bites is significantly lower than that of Africa or South America. However, just a month ago in a 6 year old boy in Tennessee died from LaCrosse Encephalitis, a disease that effects the nervous system, which was contracted from a mosquito bite.

Mosquitos are known to carry Malaria, Chikungunya, Dog Heartworm, Dengue, Yellow Fever, Eastern Equine Encephalitis, St. Louis Encephalitis, LaCrosse Encephalitis, Western Equine Encephalitis and West Nile Virus.

Doing all we can to reduce the mosquito habitat will help reduce the number of adult mosquitos buzzing around our homes. We won't be able to get rid of them completely but we can certainly make them work harder to reproduce.

You can help yourself and your neighborhood by looking out for stagnant water and getting rid of it. If you see stagnant water or suspect a location that stagnant water may collect, contact Code Enforcement and we will schedule an inspection and remove any manmade habitats as they are found.

Contact the Code Enforcement Officer at the Conover Police Department at 828-464-4698 or email codeofficer@conovernc.gov.

Planning Ahead:

City Council:	Meets the first Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at Conover City Hall
Planning Board:	Meets the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at Conover City Hall

“This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.”